

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA
General Membership Meeting
September 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

President Renée Tisi called this meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. She then led the members in attendance in the flag salute.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION:

President Renée Tisi welcomed everyone back to the 2019-2020 School Year. Renée announced that all monthly meetings going forward are General Membership Meetings and according to our new by-laws, provided we are able to establish a quorum, we will be able to conduct business and make decisions/motions at each meeting. She introduced this School Year's Executive Board - herself as President, Kristine D'Ambrosio as 1st Vice President, Michelle Grunbaum as 2nd Vice President, Hillary McWhorter as 3rd Vice President, Kimberly Jeannette as Treasurer, Christina Trank as Recording Secretary (unable to make tonight's meeting), and Daniel Griffin as Corresponding Secretary.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Members in attendance exceeded the 11 member minimum, to establish a quorum as set forth by the James W. Alexander By-Laws. See attendance sheet/sign in.

APPROVAL of JUNE 6, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

No changes were made to the Meeting Minutes. Lauren Hutchins motioned to pass the minutes as written. Margaret Tisi seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES & PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES:

President Renée Tisi explained the Standing Rules to be an abbreviated version of our PTA by-laws. Renée explained that all committee heads will be responsible for signing and following the Protocol and Procedures going forward. She reviewed the need for purchases to be made with the tax exempt form and that the PTA will no longer be reimbursing for tax paid on items ordered for committees, per IRS regulations. Renée informed the members that there is a PTA Amazon account, registered as tax exempt and can be used by ordering through each committee's overseeing Executive Board Member. Members asked about setting up a Prime account. Member Erin Andahazy motioned for the PTA to pay for a Prime account at \$120 for the year. Member Dawn Constantini seconded the motion. The motion passed and Prime will be added to the PTA Tax Exempt Amazon Account. Member Denise Wyers spoke on Amazon Smile and making it known to PTA members and Parents. Renée Tisi would like it to be featured in the next PTA newsletter. Kimberly Jeannette would like parents to receive instructions on how to do this. Member Jennifer Zodda asked if someone could look into the student discount for Amazon Prime. Renée Tisi will be calling Amazon to check on the student discount.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SUMMER REVIEW:

- President Renée Tisi reviewed all that has happened since the close of school in June 2019. The 2019 - 2020 school year focus this year will be fundraising. She explained that we are beginning this school year with significantly less funds than we are accustomed. She explained that parents do not need to be part of every fundraiser, but can contribute to what works for them.
- The playground installation is underway. 2nd Vice President Michelle Grunbaum explained that she spoke to past PTA President Tiffany Gershon, who informed her that the board was waiting for a part to be able to

remove the handicapped swing and install 2 regular swings in its place. Mr. Bookholdt stated that John Miranda is the contact for Michelle regarding the swings. Michelle will reach out to him tomorrow.

- Four picnic tables were purchased and assembled before the start of the school year. 3 in the rear of the building for classroom use and 1 was placed in front of the school to replace the older wooden table.
- Take home folders were purchased for the students this year.
- The James W. Alexander By-Laws were updated and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Kimberly Jeannette presented the current budget.

Budget as of August 31, 2019 -

Starting Balance: \$9006.56

Checks Written: \$3422.87

Outstanding Checks: \$3317.98

Deposits: \$16208.82

Ending Balance: \$18984.38

This does not include the \$7500 owed to the Board of Education for the playground.

This does not include the \$680 paid out for the take home folder purchase.

Kimberly explained the proposed budget for 2019-2020 School Year. She asked if any changes were necessary from Committee Chairs. She asked if there were any questions for the General Membership. No changes or questions were presented. Member Tara Sottong motioned to pass the 2019-2020 budget as presented. Member Sandy Gallucci seconded the motion. The motion passed and the 2019-2020 Budget was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Recording Secretary Daniel Griffin reviewed thank you notes from teachers and staff members to last years 5th grade committee, for all that they did at the end of the school year. Kindergarten and Third grade teachers thanked the PTA for the back to school breakfast and back to school folders. Hannah Leszcynski thanked the PTA for choosing her as a recipient of the 2019 scholarship.

ROOM REPRESENTATIVES:

Committee Chair Theresa Timian explained changes this year to include: bulk item orders to save money; all items will be in the all purpose room in reusable bags. This Friday, September 13, 2019 is the deadline for Room Representative interests. She will reach out to parents to inform them next week and the Room Representative meeting will begin prior to the Back to School Night meeting on 9/23. The current rules for the Room Representatives stand as is with one addition: it will be made clear that there are no substitutions if you are unable to make a trip, the replacement will be at the teachers choice/discretion.

RUTGERS RAIN GARDEN:

The Rain Garden will be installed and maintained by Rutgers. Approvals are still underway. Planting will need to take place in October or will have to wait until the Spring 2020. Mr. Bookholdt reports that the Superintendent is supportive of the project.

5th GRADE COMMITTEE:

Committee Chair Tara Sottong reports that a volunteer request form has gone out to 5th grade parents. She requested that any 5th grade parents in attendance at tonight's meeting, stay afterwards to discuss. 30 yearbooks have been ordered already which qualifies for 1 free book at this time. She handed a report to 5th grade parents, detailing progress for each area of the committees focus. PTA will be purchasing 20 yearbooks again this year: 19 teachers and 1 for the Main Office. All 5th Graders unable to afford a yearbook will receive them, donated by the PTA and with the guidance of Mrs. Larkin.

TALENT SHOW:

President Renée Tisi reports that she received a message from Mrs. Ferraris and the teachers will be putting on a Talent Show again this year. It will take place in the Spring.

REFLECTIONS:

Member Dawn Constanini gave an overview of the Reflections Program. This year's theme is "LOOK WITHIN". 15 students participated last year. 1 student made it to the state competition. The deadline for submissions will be November 11th and the Ceremony will be held on November 20th. Dawn is in need of committee volunteers as well as Judges. Dawn also reported that they did not have any dancers this past year and would like to see some this year.

FRIENDLY'S DINING AND SCOOP NIGHT:

1st Vice President Kristine D'Ambrosio spoke with teachers and Mr. Bookholdt. October 3 or 10 from 5-7:30pm were determined to be dates that will work based on the school calendar. Kristine will check back with Friendly's and confirm a date and time. Mr. Bookholdt requested that a sign-up be placed in the main office for teachers to sign up to scoop.

BOOKFAIR:

3rd Vice President Hillary McWhorter reported that the Book Fair theme this year will be Halloween Theme in order to save money and reuse themed decorations year to year. Set - up will be Thursday Night 10/17. Preview will be Friday 10/18 and Monday 10/21. Students will shop in school 10/22 & 10/23. Last minutes will shop 10/24. Family Night will be during evening conferences 10/22. Volunteers are needed.

SPIRIT WEAR:

Committee Chairs Lisa Gray and Hillary McWhorter report that a new Spirit Wear Company has been chosen for this year. Jesse's T's. Products and pricing have been narrowed down and they are looking to open up the ordering this coming week, closing orders on October 5th and also having samples for Back to School Night on 9/23.

DANCE-A-THON:

Committee Chairs Michelle Grunbaum and Renée Tisi reported that the Dance-A-Thon will take the place of our Apex Fun Run from last year. Grades K&1, 2&3, 4&5 will respectively dance for 1.5 hours to raise money and earn prizes. A Pay Pal will be set up for donations. Volunteers are needed.

BLOCK PARTY:

President Renée Tisi reports that set up begins tomorrow night at 4:30. There will be 6 Food Trucks; games; contests; 50/50 raffle and a DJ. Anyone able to help is much appreciated.

BTS NIGHT:

Back to School Night is 9/23 at 7pm. It will NOT be a General Membership Meeting. President Renée Tisi will introduce the Executive Board Members and do a brief welcome.

BARNES & NOBLE NIGHT:

1st Vice President Kristine D'Ambrosio confirms the date of 12/5. The music teacher will be having the 3rd grade perform their holiday show. It was suggested to have the children stand in the open area instead of on the stage, so that parents and families can see the performance better. Kristine will look into it.

TRICKY TRAY:

Committee Chairs Lori Hutchins and Hillary McWhorter report the event will take place on March 20, 2020. They have put down a deposit of \$1000 to secure the Nottingham Ballroom. After research and profit evaluation, they sought the opinion of the general membership as to whether to keep the event at this venue which will yield \$11 per ticket sold profit, or to pull the deposit and continue to research for other venues, or to stay with Steinert Cafeteria. Member Erin Andahazy motioned to pull the deposit. Member Pamela Davila seconded the motion. The motion passed to pull the deposit from Nottingham Ball Room.

GRANTS:

Daniel Griffin reports that he and his wife Elaine are available to our PTA to apply for any grants that we may be eligible for. Please contact them for more information.

TRUNK OR TREAT:

Chariperson Sandy Gallucci confirms Trunk or Treat will be held 10/25 in the Staff Parking Lot. Volunteers are needed to form a committee.

ADDITION FUNDRAISING & COMMITTEES:

Kid Stuff Book Sale: Distribution on 9/23 at Back to School Night.

Mum Sale: 9/16 - 9/27 sale; 10/4 pick up

Johnson's Locust Farm: 10/12, 10/13, 10/14

A&M Pies: Pick up 11/27

Pancake Breakfast: No current updates

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:

President Renée Tisi informs the general membership that the Executive Board Members will have a representative present at each of the monthly BOE meetings. She encourages any parent/PTA member to also attend in order to stay informed and have a voice for our school.

WEBSITE & REMIND APP:

President Renée Tisi reminds the general membership that all of the PTA information is posted on the website. She also asked anyone that has not already done so, to be sure to sign up for the PTA Remind App.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Reid thanked the PTA for the hallway bulletin board and the back to school folders. She confirmed how and what Form to use for the teachers to get reimbursed through the PTA. Kimberly Jeannette further specified that the teacher needs to be a PTA Member to receive reimbursement. Mrs. Reid asked if they would be receiving Brain Pop again this year. Kimberly Jeannette and Renée Tisi confirmed this and further stated that it is up for renewing around October/November and it would be renewed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Bookholdt reports that the school is off to a great start with many smiling faces and smooth transitions. He has seen very few Kindergarten tears. He is very thankful to our PTA for all of its efforts, highlighting all of the great changes that have already happened since June 2019. Dates to be noted: 9/23 Back to School Night beginning at 7pm; 9/25 Reptile Assembly; 9/30 & 10/1 Picture Days.

RAFFLE WINNER:

Member Danielle Wiltsey was the winner of this months General Membership PTA meeting raffle.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

October 15, 2019 at 7:15 PM

SUBMITTED BY:

Hillary McWhorter, 3rd Vice President